

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1163**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Frommer**

February 21, 2003

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An act to add Section 12693.685 to the Insurance Code, and to add Section 14005.22 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to health coverage.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1163, as introduced, Frommer. Medi-Cal program and Healthy Families Program: seamless system.

Existing law provides for the creation of various programs to provide health care services to persons who have limited incomes and meet various eligibility requirements. These programs include the Healthy Families Program, administered by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, and the Medi-Cal program, administered by the State Department of Health Services.

This bill would require the board and the department, to the extent federal financial participation is available, to establish designated policies and practices designed to coordinate programs between the Medi-Cal program and the Healthy Families Program to create a seamless system of coverage for insureds and beneficiaries.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 12693.685 is added to the Insurance  
2 Code, to read:

1 12693.685. To the extent that federal financial participation is  
2 available, the board shall establish policies and practices to  
3 coordinate programs with the Medi-Cal program in order to create  
4 a seamless system of coverage for insureds and beneficiaries.  
5 These policies and practices shall include, but not be limited to, all  
6 of the following:

7 (a) Accelerated enrollment transfers between the Medi-Cal  
8 program and the Healthy Families Program.

9 (b) Synchronized renewal of coverage under the Medi-Cal  
10 program and the Healthy Families Program for any family with  
11 members covered under both programs.

12 (c) Use of a joint renewal form for the Medi-Cal program and  
13 the Healthy Families Program.

14 (d) Coordination between the Medi-Cal program, the Healthy  
15 Families Program, and county initiatives.

16 (e) Simplified renewals.

17 (f) Payment leniency for periods of financial hardship.

18 SEC. 2. Section 14005.22 is added to the Welfare and  
19 Institutions Code, to read:

20 14005.22. To the extent that federal financial participation is  
21 available, the department shall establish policies and practices to  
22 coordinate programs with the Managed Risk Medical Insurance  
23 Board for purposes of the Healthy Families Program in order to  
24 create a seamless system of coverage for insureds and  
25 beneficiaries. These policies and practices shall include, but not be  
26 limited to, all of the following:

27 (a) Accelerated enrollment transfers between the Medi-Cal  
28 program and the Healthy Families Program.

29 (b) Synchronized renewal of coverage under the Medi-Cal  
30 program and the Healthy Families Program for any family  
31 members covered under both programs.

32 (c) Use of a joint renewal form for the Medi-Cal program and  
33 the Healthy Families Program.

34 (d) Coordination between the Medi-Cal program, the Healthy  
35 Families Program, and county initiatives.

36 (e) Simplified renewals.